

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 28, 2004. Claims 24-27, 29-36, 38-41, 51-54 and 56-59 are presented for examination, of which Claims 24, 31-33, 40, 41, 51, 58 and 59 are in independent form. Claims 28, 37, 42-50 and 55 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 24, 25, 27, 31-34, 36, 38, 40, 41, 51, 52, 54, 55, 58 and 59 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 24-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,995,718 (Hiraike et al.). Cancellation of Claims 28, 37, 42-50, and 55 renders the rejection of those claims moot.

Independent Claim 24 is directed to a host computer that communicates with a plurality of printing apparatuses via a network. That host computer communicates with a plurality of printing apparatuses via a network, and comprises a reference unit adapted to refer to font registration information that includes information specifying a font registered in each of the printing apparatuses. A font registration unit is provided that is adapted to download font data to the printing apparatuses for registration, and a management unit is adapted to retain the font registration information and to manage registration information indicating the font data downloaded to each of the printing apparatuses by the font registration unit. According to Claim 24, the font registration information is used when the font data is downloaded to any one of the printing apparatuses by the font registration unit.

As illustrated in Figs. 4A-4C, this aspect of the invention manages font data registered in each of the printing apparatuses, and based on the management, registers font data required in any one of the printers (it is of course to be understood that the scope of the claims is

not in any way limited by the details of this or any other specific portion of the disclosure referred to).

Hiraike '718, which has been discussed in previous prosecution, takes one printer into consideration and causes a host computer to register font data in the printer. *Hiraike '718* fails, however, to make provision for the management of font data registered in a plurality of printers, and does not teach or suggest any arrangement by which such management could be achieved, much less the specific arrangement of Claim 24. That claim, therefore, is deemed allowable over *Hiraike '718*.

Independent Claim 31 as amended is directed to a host computer that communicates with a management apparatus, and with a plurality of printing apparatuses via a network. The transmission unit transmits registration information, indicating the downloaded font data to the management apparatus. By referring to the font registration information retained in the management apparatus, the host computer can get information on font registration status in the printers. Even if another host computer newly registers a font in a certain printer, the host computer can share the font registration by the other computer.

In *Hiraike '718*, a host computer determines whether a character bit map has been registered in the printer. If so, the host computer sends a registration ID to the printer, and if not, the host computer sends the bit map to the printer (column 8, lines 15-37). *Hiraike '718* fails to teach or suggest, however, a transmission unit as recited in Claim 31, much less the recited cooperation between such transmission unit and the management apparatus. For at least that reason, Claim 31 also is deemed clearly allowable over that patent.

Independent claim 32 is directed to a print system comprising a plurality of printing apparatuses and a host computer that communicates via a network, in which system font

data from the host computer is registered in the printing apparatuses, and the printing apparatuses perform a printing process using the registered font data. Claim 32 recites characteristics of this host computer similar to those recited in Claim 24 in respect of the arguments presented above, and Claim 31 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Hiraike '718* for the same reasons as is Claim 24.

Independent Claims 33, 40 and 41 are method claims, and Claims 41, 48 and 59 are program-product claims, corresponding to apparatus or system Claims 24, 31 and 32, respectively, and are deemed allowable over *Hiraike '718* for the same reasons as given above in connection with the latter claims.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues

remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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